



The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i

P9, Bill 13, CD2

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick
Bishop

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CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

May 29, 2015

The Honorable Ernest Y. Martin
Honolulu City Council – District Two
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Councilmember Martin:

As Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i, I write in support of the Mayor's request for the seven positions needed to run the Office of Strategic Development. I understand this issue will be considered on Wednesday, June 3, 2015. These positions are necessary in order to actually begin the building of the affordable housing already funded by Council.

I am grateful that Council supports affordable housing. It is a mark of moral and responsible leadership. As you know too well, these resources in and of themselves are not enough. If the Mayor cannot move quickly to create affordable housing with these resources because of the lack of adequate and appropriate staff, the onus will be upon our elected leaders to explain why the people of Honolulu have been ill served.

While some have suggested that the staffing has not been provided for political reasons looking to future elections, I would prefer to assume that as responsible leaders you are awaiting a determination of the need to appropriately utilize the funds in the most effective way and that the support for the needed staff will be forthcoming.

Our housing shortage is beyond crisis. It is one of the keen moral issues of our time. We all need to work together to solve it and get God's people off of the streets.

I look forward to your favorable action on the Mayor's request.

Yours faithfully,

Robert L. Fitzpatrick

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Bishop

cc: Mayor Kirk Caldwell
The Rev. David Gierlach

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